

The Michael Richman House
Upper Pittsgrove Township, Salem County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Michael Richman House
Upper Pittsgrove Township, Salem County, New Jersey

Owner: Arthur Van Keown

Date of Erection: 1764

Architect:

Builder: Michael Richman

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - brick

Exterior walls - brick

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

This house is located on Whig Lane and is associated with the Revolutionary War as the hiding place, supposedly, in turn both of patriots and tories. The name Whig Lane, however, has survived. It is not far from old Pole Tavern, which was the drilling place for the local militia and the site of their liberty pole.

The gable contains the letters "M. R. R." and the date "1764". It also has a curious design in glazed brick.

Bibliography:

Sickler, J. S. The Old Houses of Salem County Salem, Sunbeam Publishing Company, 1934

William E. Keith
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.
District Officer

DW 8/4/31

A D D E N D U M

Search of the title proves that this farm in Upper Pittsgrove Township, Salem County, was in possession of Michael Richman and wife Rebecca at the time of the erection of the house in 1764. The significance of the initials R is accordingly obvious. M R

The history of this farm begins with its transfer from one John Easter to Herman¹ Richman of Pilesgrove, Salem County, as recited in the latter's will of 9 June 1744 in devising the 300 acres to his son Michael² Richman at age of twenty-one years. The conveyance not being found on record, that tract is presumably the one on which the devisee erected his house twenty years later.

Michael² Richman and Rebecka Keen, both from Pilesgrove, were married on 19 December 1754, per the register of the Swedish church at Raceoon Creek (Swedesborough) in the adjacent County of Gloucester. Rebecca Richman of Pittsgrove Township, Salem County, gave bond on 16 June 1773 as admx. on the estate of Michael Richman decd. intestate, late of same place. Record of the names of the heirs other than the widow, and of the division of the real estate does not appear.

Nehemiah³ Richman, supposedly a son of the preceding, appears as the next owner of this house, however, and he having died intestate, lot number 8 in a division of his lands on 10 June 1826 was assigned to Rebeckah K. Richman, his daughter.

By deed of 26 February 1831, Rebecca K. Richman, abovesaid, conveyed to Moses Richman the tract of land and its house here considered, reciting inheritance from her father, Nehemiah Richman. Moses Richman, the grantee, by his will of 14 January 1862 devised the property to his wife Phoebe and she dying intestate, it descended to their daughter Emily (Richman) Johnson. The last named likewise dying


*Nehemiah Richman born 22 Oct. 1755, died 20 Feb. 1826. He married 7 Dec. 1796 Hannah Bowen, also of Pittsgrove Twp. who died 29 Jan. 1823 in 55th year. Gravestones in Daretown Presbyterian Churchyard, Salem County. (genealog, Mag. N.J., vol. 7, p 12.)

intestate, the property passed to her five children, and three of them by their attorney Jonathan W. Acton, conveyed the same by deed of 18 March 1899 to the other two, Lizzie J. Schade and Hannah A. Johnson. Subsequently, by deed of 31 December 1902 the property passed from them to Marion Mc Lain, after legal proceedings and public sale; by one of 17 March 1905 William Mc Lain and wife Marion conveyed it to Frank Van Culin. The last named, by deed of 27 May 1935, conveyed it to Carrie C. Van Culin, the present owner, the acreage being then 101.28.

Bibliography:

New Jersey Archives, vol. 30, p. 398;
vol. 34, p. 422

Salem County Will Book F-137
Salem County Division of Lands, Book-D-233
Salem County Deeds-LL-328; 86-136; 94-165;
115-361; 215-13


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